

SITUATION REPORT NO. 16
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 9, 1997 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service has alerted the Fargo area to brace for more water than projected when the Red River of the North crests late April 10 or early April 11, two days ahead of earlier predictions. The revised forecast calls for the river crest at 39 to 39.5 feet, at least one foot above earlier predictions. The Weather Service revised the forecast because of an ice jam upstream from Fargo that is holding back a large volume of water. A slow release of water from the ice obstruction may lower the forecasted crest. Although the river has crested at Wahpeton, river levels should remain high as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) increases releases from Lake Traverse farther downstream in Minnesota. The status of North Dakota rivers and tributaries above flood stage are as follows:

Station	Flood 4/9/97 24-hr		Flood of	
	Stage	Stage Difference	Record	
<u>Red River</u>				
Wahpeton	10 ft.	15.98	-0.30 ft.	18.5 ft.
Fargo	17 ft.	35.35 ft.	+2.22 ft.	37.5 ft.
Halstad, MN	24 ft.	33.31 ft.	+1.25 ft.	39 ft.
East Grand Forks	28 ft.	40.85 ft.	+1.13 ft.	48.8 ft.
<u>Wild Rice</u>				
Abercrombie	10 ft.	22.84 ft.	-1.24 ft.	24.6 ft.
<u>Maple River</u>				
Enderlin	6 ft.	8.49 ft.	(Not available)	15.4 ft.
Mapleton	9 ft.	15 ft.	-0 ft.	15 ft.
<u>Goose River</u>				
Hillsboro	7 ft.	18.5 ft.	-4.52 ft.	16.8 ft.
<u>Sheyenne River</u>				
Cooperstown	12 ft.	17.21 ft.	+2.63 ft.	18.69 ft.
Lisbon	11 ft.	15.43 ft.	-0.52 ft.	19 ft.

Kindred	16 ft.	21.72 ft.	-0.12 ft.	21.7 ft.
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Station	Flood 4/9/97 24-hr Stage Stage Difference			Flood of Record
<u>Sheyenne Diversion</u>				
Horace	23 ft.	23.61 ft.	+0.90 ft.	(Not established)
West Fargo	16.5 ft.	23.20 ft.	+0.13 ft.	21.5 ft.
Harwood	884 ft.	891.86 ft.	+0.16 ft.	890.70 ft.
<u>Forest River</u>				
Minto	6 ft.	(Not available)		11.8 ft.
<u>Souris River</u>				
Foxholm	10 ft.	13.56 ft.	-0.44 ft.	17.71 ft.
Westhope	10 ft.	11.08 ft.	+0.10 ft.	19.2 ft.

A combination of wind and ice during the April 5-6 blizzard snapped N.D. State Radio Communications' antennas, causing extensive damage and requiring 40 percent of the system to operate on backup generators. During the storm, generators failed in Linton and Petersburg, temporarily knocking service out in those areas. Broken antennas were reported in Grand Forks, Carrington, Petersburg, Fargo, Wishek, New Salem and Belcourt. Stations that have been repaired include: Cleveland, Columbus, Driscoll, Fortuna, Hannover, Tioga and Finley. The system is presently fully operational, with power being supplied either by generators or regular electrical service. State Radio Communications is working with N.D. Department of Transportation's (N.D. DOT) radio division to correct malfunctions.

Prolonged power outages persist in causing problems for North Dakotans. As many continue without power, they are experiencing problems providing water to livestock because of inoperable electric water pumps. Cattle and calves are dying because snow-clogged routes prevent access to feed supplies. Grocery stores and home owners report that their supplies of perishable foods are spoiling.

The N.D. State Water Commission reported that snow- and ice-clogged bridges forced water out of the English Coulee, where it traveled overland into a rural subdivision southwest of the city of Grand Forks. The water, however, does not pose a threat for Grand Forks.

N.D. DOT officials report rising flood waters are threatening the state and federal highway systems. Water is rising near the shoulders of I-29 near Hickson, and has crossed the interstate south of Fargo, where one lane has been closed and traffic speeds reduced. On I-94, water is flowing over the eastbound and westbound lanes near Fargo. Inundation has resulted in the closure of N.D. Highway 200 at two locations, north of Hillsboro at the Goose River and at the Red River Bridge at Halstad. Other highway closures include N.D. Highway 81 at Minto, and N.D. Highway 18, south of its junction with N.D. Highway 17. State highways where flooded sites have been flagged and traffic speeds reduced are: N.D. Highway 13, at four locations, including west of Wahpeton, where a pilot car is assisting

motorists, the Wyndmere area, western portion of the city of LaMoure and east of Wishek; N.D. Highway 3, south of Ashley; N.D. Highway 56, south of Gackle; N.D. Highway 1, west of Ludden; and N.D. Highway 2, west of Devils Lake.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: First Lady Nancy Schafer, Marilyn Quayle, the Salvation Army's national spokesperson, and officials for the Salvation Army national and regional headquarters are scheduled to visit flood-damaged areas in Fargo and Wahpeton on April 9. They will be viewing damages and assessing disaster relief efforts in Fargo and in the Wahpeton-Breckenridge area. The N.D. National Guard will provide a helicopter and crew for the visit.

Results of a preliminary survey indicate that 30 shelters were opened throughout North Dakota for thousands of people seeking shelter from problems created by electrical outages, flooding and storm conditions. In Grand Forks, Nelson and Walsh Counties alone, 11 shelters were opened for 643 people.

North Dakota Civil Air Patrol members joined other volunteers to assist with sandbagging efforts in the city of Grand Forks. Volunteers have filled 695,000 sandbags and are continuing efforts. Sandbagging efforts continue throughout the eastern communities along the Red River.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: James Lee Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and North Dakota's congressional delegation are scheduled to visit North Dakota on April 10-11 for a tour of flood-stricken areas along the Red River. National Guard units in the tri-state area affected by flooding, North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota, will provide aerial support for the visit.

The National Guard has established 24-hour command posts at Bohn Armory in Bismarck and at the Air National Guard headquarters in Fargo. National Guard forces have participated in 62 missions, 18 of which have been completed. Missions currently underway include delivery of generators, emergency transportation, aerial surveillance, and providing water purification tanks.

In preparation for flood waters headed north on the Red River, the USACE initiated around-the-clock work on dikes for the city of Grand Forks and Grafton. Construction on the levees were disrupted for about a day during the storm.

During the recent storm, State Radio Communications provided emergency communications for McVillie Hospital, after the Nelson County hospital lost its communications ability. Traill County switched its 911 responsibilities to State Radio

Communications during the weekend after county communication services lost commercial power.

The Civil Air Patrol conducted a surveillance flight on April 8 of the Red River and its tributaries for the National Weather Service and the N.D. State Water Commission.

Emergency declarations have been issued by Barnes, Bowman, Burleigh and Dickey Counties and the city of Bismarck. Since late February, 21 counties, 34 cities and one township have issued emergency declarations. Officials for 23 counties and eight cities have signed disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director